

8A2

Tuesday, March 13, 1962

THE WASHINGTON POST

Executive Sharply Limits Privilege

By Arnold B. Sawislak
United Press International

President Kennedy has declared that no one in his Administration but himself will decide whether to withhold information from Congress, Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.) said yesterday.

Moss, Chairman of the House Government Information Subcommittee, asked Mr. Kennedy for a clear statement of his policy on executive privilege—the presidential power to refuse Congress' demands for information from Federal departments and agencies.

Moss' request grew out of Mr. Kennedy's decision last month to invoke executive privilege to withhold from a Senate subcommittee the names of Pentagon officials in a letter dated March 7 that his directive on the Pentagon censors "was limited to that specific request" and that each case must be judged on its merits.

"Executive privilege can be invoked only by the President and will not be used without specific presidential approval," Mr. Kennedy wrote.

The President said the basic policy of his Administration was to give Congress as much information as it could.

In his request for clarification, Moss said former President Eisenhower had used executive privilege in 1954 without saying that each case would be decided separately.

As a result, Moss said, "time after time executive branch employees far down the administrative line from the President fell back on his letter of May 17, 1954, as authority to withhold information from the Congress and the public."

Moss said his Committee

had not found a single case Kennedy Administration prior of the successful invoking of to its use in the censorship executive privilege during the hearings.